

Daily Plan ~ Day 1

Sunday, June 19, 2005

Day Coordinator: Sandra Schultz, National Park

Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River

Fishs Eddy, NY to Hancock, NY on the East Branch of the Delaware River

10 Miles ~ Two Class I + Rapids, Riffles and Gravel Bars



Firemen's Field, Hancock, NY on Sunday, June 19, 2005

10:00 A.M. Campsites available ~

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- 10:30 A.M. Campers and day-trippers register at Firemen's Field, Hancock, NY
Load private boats for shuttle to Fishs Eddy
- Noon Buffet Lunch by the Hancock Ambulance Squad and a Brief Trip Orientation
- 1:00 P.M. Shuttle boats and people to Fishs Eddy
- 2:00 P.M. Safety Talk and Launch at Fishs Eddy New York DEC Access and paddle for 10 miles back to Firemen's Field in Hancock
- 6:00 P.M. Off the River at Firemen's Field - Set up camp
- 7:00 P.M. World Famous Chicken Barbecue Dinner by the Hancock Firemen
- 8:00 P.M. Sojourn Kick-Off Program at the Firemen's Pavilion
- 9:30 P.M. Campfire
- 10:30 P.M. Quiet Hours

Camping at Firemen's Field, Hancock, NY

Note: There are NO shower facilities at this location.

Many thanks to today's Sojourn Partners:

Upper Delaware Council; National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River; Jerry DaBrescia, Hancock Partners, Inc.; Hancock Fire Department; Hancock Ambulance Squad; and Lander's River Trips.

***Water Levels** – Water height is of critical importance for boating safety in the Upper Delaware section of the river for two reasons:

High water can inundate the riverbanks and islands where flooded trees and vegetation can create what are known as “strainers.” Strainers are very, very dangerous and can trap boats and people under water.

1. High water changes the characteristics of the rapids on the Upper Delaware. Some “wash out” while others become more dangerous.

At 6-feet, the National Park Service begins calling the liveries to recommend rafts only. Above the 8-foot water level the National Park Service recommends only “highly skilled boaters in properly equipped rafts or in closed boats.”

The Sojourn’s Policy for the Upper Delaware River is:

At average water levels: 2.9-4.5 ft – Everyone may take the trip in canoes or kayaks, even if it is raining.

At moderate water levels: 4.5 – 6 ft – We will take the trip even if it is raining. Rafts are recommended for less-skilled boaters. The Sojourn Safety Staff will have the final word in determining who is a skilled boater and who should be in a raft.

At high water levels: 6-8 ft – Take the trip even if it is raining and the river is not expected to go above 8 feet. Rafts will be required for all people renting watercraft and for less-skilled private boaters. High water waivers will be required for people using private boats; the Sojourn Safety Staff will have the final word in determining who is a highly skilled boater and who should be in a raft

At very high water: 8-feet and above – There will be No Sojourn River Trip – Alternate Land Activities will be offered.

It is especially important to note that high water rescues endanger the people making the rescue. While Sojourn Safety personnel are well-trained in rescue techniques, the person nearest to a boat or boater in trouble could be another Sojourner. High water makes the river more dangerous for everyone. The Sojourn will determine whether it is safe to paddle on any given Sojourn day.

Day 1 High-Water Plan: The Kick-Off Lunch and Program will be provided as planned.

There is much to see and do in the Upper Delaware Valley. Alternate activities include a driving tour of beautiful and scenic Delaware County, NY. Or, follow the East Branch of the Delaware to its fabled trout waters of the Willowemoc and Beaverkill Creeks. Either way, there are many small towns loaded with shops, galleries and antiques. Maps and brochures will be provided.

Dinner will still be served as planned.